

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 11, 14, and 18-20. Please amend claims 1-10, 12, 13, 15-17, and 21-37. Please add new claims 38-46. The claims are as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A tooth and gum cleaning kit for effecting oral cleaning [containing] comprising:

a series of two or more tooth and gum cleaning devices [with] having various shaped cleaning end portions [tips which] able to provide for oral cleaning of infants and toddlers [and which maintain elements of familiarity from stage to stage];

a universal handle; and

a plurality of cleaning tips for older children, the plurality of cleaning tips being detachably securable onto the universal handle so as to form a toothbrush for effecting the oral cleaning.

2. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim 1 [which] wherein each [uses a series] of the cleaning tips [which] and the cleaning end portions progress in size from smaller to larger.

3. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim 1 [which] wherein at least one of the [uses a series of] cleaning tips [with] have multi directional protrusions and progressively more brush-like shapes.

4. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim 1 [having] wherein each of the cleaning tips [which] are characterized by a 360 degree radially outward omni-directional cleaning surface shape.

5. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim 1 [having] wherein each of the cleaning tips [having] and the cleaning end portions have a generally oval or elliptical or oblong shape when viewed from [the] a top end of the cleaning tips and the cleaning end portions.

6. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim 5, [1 having] wherein each of the cleaning tips and the cleaning end portions [having] have a partially or completely tapered shape toward the top end when viewed from [the] a front and/or side of the cleaning tips and the cleaning end portions.

7. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim 1 [having] wherein each of the cleaning tips and the cleaning end portions are made of a resilient material such as foam.

8. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim 7 [in which] wherein at least one of the cleaning tips has a generally planar surface or surfaces.

9. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim 7 in which at least one of the cleaning tips has raised ridges on a surface thereof.

10. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim 7 [in which] wherein at least one of the cleaning tips has raised, generally cylindrical, conical, or flat sided, simulated bristles.

11 (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim [1] 6, [in which] wherein at least one of the cleaning tips has inner and/or outer surfaces [having] which have a partially or completely tapered shape toward the top end when viewed from the front and/or side.

13. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim 1 in which at least one cleaning tip has a hole in the end of the at least one cleaning tip which would allow [the] a child to breathe through.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim 1 in which at least one of the cleaning tips is permanently attached to ~~[a] the~~ universal handle.

16. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim 15 in which the universal handle is substantially oval or elliptical or oblong when viewed from [the] a top or bottom of the universal handle.

17. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim 16 in which the universal handle is generally smaller in [cross section] diameter in [the] a middle portion of the handle and increasingly larger in [cross section] diameter toward the top and bottom of the [hand hold portion] handle.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim 1 [18] in which the universal handle has a securing mechanism therein for securing and locking any of the plurality of cleaning tips secured onto the universal handle, [which] wherein the securing mechanism [is] can be unlocked with a cam mechanism by pushing a rod from [the] a bottom of the universal handle.

22. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim [18] 21 in which the universal handle has a deformable button on an outer surface thereof which allows the rod to be pushed axially by [an adult] a user, [and which] the deformable button [has] having [enough] sufficient elastic force to return the rod and the securing [means] mechanism to [the] a locked position.

23. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim 13 [18] in which the universal handle has an unrestricted air passage contained therein [which is similar in total cross section] whereby, when the at least one cleaning tip is secured onto the universal handle, a diameter of the air passage in the universal handle corresponds and cooperates substantially to a diameter of the air passage in the top end of the [replaceable tips] the at least one cleaning tip, which would allow [the] a child to breathe through.

24. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim 1, in which the universal handle [A handle for a child's tooth and gum cleaning device which] is filled or partially filled with a fluid or combination of fluids that turn different colors or change phase or appearance during prolonged and/or rigorous agitation.

25. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim 1, in which the universal handle [A handle for a child's tooth and gum cleaning device which] is filled or partially filled with a foaming fluid or two or more non-emulsifying fluids of different colors and densities which mix together during prolonged and/or rigorous agitation and separate again when the agitation stops.

26. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim 25, in which the foaming fluid or two or more non-emulsifying fluids of different colors and densities which fill or partially fill the universal handle [which mix] are mixed together [handle of claim 24] and combined with one or more agitator objects to increase mixing efficiency.

27. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim [18] 21 in which, when any of the plurality of cleaning tips are to be secured onto or removed from the universal handle, the [handle has a] securing mechanism [which] requires the cleaning tip to be inserted onto the universal handle and removed from the universal handle at an angle relative to [the] a longitudinal center axis of the universal handle.

28. (Currently Amended) [A manufacturing method] The kit of claim 1, whereby non-round final shapes of each of the cleaning tips and the cleaning end portions are [created] manufactured by deformably securing flexible [shapes] material onto a mandrel which spins around a center axis during material removal.

29. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim 1 in which [one or more cleaning tips] the tooth and gum

cleaning devices [have a portion] are designed to be placed [which fits over the] onto a caregiver's finger to provide the oral cleaning of infants and toddlers.

30. (Currently Amended) The [cleaning tip] kit of claim 29, [which has an integrated flexible safety loop which fits over a different finger or fingers of the caregiver.] wherein the tooth and gum cleaning devices each further comprise a foam cleaning member which is molded or bonded to a flexible sleeve, the flexible sleeve having an integrated finger loop which, when in use, is placed onto the caregiver's finger to provide the oral cleaning of the infants and toddlers.

31. (Currently Amended) [A toothbrush for older children and adults] The kit of claim 5, wherein, when any of the plurality of cleaning tips are secured onto the universal handle, a toothbrush is formed, the toothbrush having conventional bristles [with a] having a radially outward 360 degree bristle pattern [having conventional bristles] with an inner surface shape and/or outer bristle shape which is at least partially non-round when viewed from [the] a top end of the toothbrush.

32. (Currently Amended) [A toothbrush for older children and adults] The kit of claim 5, wherein, when any of the plurality of cleaning tips are secured onto the universal handle, a toothbrush is formed, the toothbrush having conventional bristles [with a] having a radially outward 360 degree bristle shape [having conventional bristles] with an inner surface shape and/or outer bristle shape which is at least partially tapered when viewed from [the] a front or side of the toothbrush.

33. (Currently Amended) [A toothbrush for older children and adults] The kit of claim 32, the toothbrush having radially arrayed bristles in a helical pattern.

34. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim 5, wherein, when any of the plurality of cleaning tips are secured onto the universal handle, a toothbrush is formed, the toothbrush being [A] a powered toothbrush [with] having omni-directional bristles which rotate around [the] a longitudinal axis of the universal handle at a variable or constant or intermittent speed in either direction and/or which vibrate or reciprocate in [the] a longitudinal direction.

35. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim 34, wherein [The] the powered toothbrush [of claim 34 which] is operably able to change[s] rotational direction and/or speed and/or pattern or reciprocating amplitude or frequency in response to rotational and/or axial acceleration of the powered toothbrush caused by the user.

36. (Currently Amended) The kit [invention] of claim [34] 35, wherein the powered toothbrush [which] is operably able to rotate[s] [the] a head of the powered toothbrush away from the gums for a number of degrees and then counter rotates the head for a lesser number of degrees.

37. (Currently Amended)[A tooth and gum cleaning device or package] The kit of claim 36, wherein the universal handle [having] has a graphic or grip pattern characterized by two or more randomly placed generally circular, elliptical or oblong shapes of various sizes connected by substantially straight lines.

38. (New). The kit of claim 21, wherein the universal handle further comprises a first half portion and a second half portion which are snapped together so as to form the universal handle, each of the first half portion and the second half portion having a male protruding ridge on one side and a female receiving slot on the other side which matingly engage the corresponding ridge and slot of the other half portion when snapped together.

39. (New) A tooth and gum cleaning kit for effecting oral cleaning comprising:

a series of two or more tooth and gum cleaning devices having various shaped cleaning end portions, the tooth and gum cleaning devices each further comprising a foam cleaning member which is molded or bonded to a flexible sleeve, the flexible sleeve having an integrated finger loop which, when in use, is placed onto a caregiver's finger to provide for oral cleaning of infants and toddlers;

a universal toothbrush handle;

a first plurality of cleaning tips for older children;

a second plurality of cleaning tips for older children;

a third plurality of cleaning tips for older children, any of the cleaning tips being detachably securable onto the universal toothbrush handle so as to form a toothbrush for effecting the oral cleaning; and

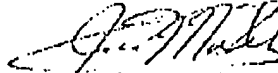
a portable case for carrying and storing the tooth and gum cleaning devices, the universal handle and the cleaning tips.

40. (New) The kit of claim 39, wherein the series of two or more tooth and gum cleaning devices are designed for infants ages zero to one years old.

41. (New) The kit of claim 39, wherein the first plurality of cleaning tips are designed for children ages one to two years old.
42. (New) The kit of claim 39, wherein the second plurality of cleaning tips are designed for children ages two to three years old.
43. (New) The kit of claim 39, wherein the third plurality of cleaning tips are designed for children ages three to four years old.
44. (New) The kit of claim 39, wherein the portable case further comprises molded cavities integrally formed therein for storage and containment of the two or more tooth and gum cleaning devices, the universal handle and any of the cleaning tips.
45. (New) The kit of claim 44, wherein the kit further comprises a compact disc with computer instructions, and a laminated instruction card, for directions as to proper use of the kit, the compact disc and the laminated instruction card being stored and contained in the portable case.
46. (New) The kit of claim 45, wherein the kit further comprises a tube of toothpaste.

Favorable action constituting allowance is solicited. The Honorable Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fees due with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0513.

Respectfully submitted,



Jonathan Madsen
Reg. No. 55,419

Date: March 1, 2005

SCHMEISER, OLSEN & WATTS
3 Lear Jet Lane, Suite 201
Latham, N.Y. 12110
(518) 220-1850